

DMM Safety Alert:

Miner Injured By Falling Electrical Panel

On March 26, 2020, a thirty-year-old contractor employee was seriously injured when an electrical panel fell on top of him. Contractor personnel were demolishing an old aggregate plant when the accident occurred. The electrical panel had been bolted to the flanges of two beams through tabs along the base of the panel. Several of these bolts had been cut and the panel was resting on the two beams, when the panel unexpectedly fell on the contractor employee. The employee sustained back injuries requiring surgery.

The Virginia Division of Mineral Mining (DMM) recommends the following to help prevent a similar type accident from occurring:

- Prior to starting work, assess potential safety and health hazards and determine the appropriate work procedures and personal protective equipment to be used.
- All mine personnel and contractor personnel should be trained in proper procedures for the work assigned and made aware of all hazards associated with the tasks they are assigned to perform.
- While working on any machinery, equipment, or structures, be sure to block or secure against unintended motion.
- Use signs/barricades to keep personnel out of areas containing hazards that may not be obvious.
- Perform work area inspections frequently to ensure potential hazards are identified and that tasks are carried out safely.

